(a) the details of the National Highway Projects undergoing in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the progress of these projects in the State;

(c) the expenditure incurred so far on each project; and

(d) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (d) There are 49 on going National Highway Projects in Himachal Pradesh sanctioned under plan head. The details of the projects, expenditure thereon and target of their completion are as under:

| Category of works | Number of works | Sanctioned cost (Rs. in lakhs) | Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs) | Target of completion March 2003 | 2003-04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Improvement of riding quality project | 22 | 4973.048 | 709.78 | 5 | 17 |
| Road and Bridge projects other than riding quality | 27 | 9225.270 | 6774.85 | 23 | 4 |
| TOTAL: | 49 | 14198.318 | 7484.63 | 28 | 21 |

**Investment by Private Operators in Highway Projects**

3086. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many private operators working on BOT projects have also found vehicular traffic falling short of target; and

(b) whether such signals would discourage the prospective investors from private sector from investing in highway projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) In Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) Projects the entrepreneur independently assesses the traffic and accordingly quotes his bid. Therefore, the question of discouraging the investors from private sector from investing in highway projects does not arise.